

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

HEARING #08-11030

JUNE 25, 2009

10:30 A.M.

DOCKET NO. 2009-12-S:

AQUA SOUTH CAROLINA, INC. – *Application for Approval
of a New Schedule of Rates and Charges for the
Provision of Sewerage Services to Customers in
Spartanburg County*

TRANSCRIPT OF
PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME 2

HEARING BEFORE: Elizabeth B. 'Lib' FLEMING, *CHAIRMAN*,
John E. "Butch" HOWARD, *VICE CHAIRMAN*; and COMMISSIONERS
David A. WRIGHT, G. O'Neal HAMILTON, Swain E. WHITFIELD,
Mignon L. CLYBURN, and Randy MITCHELL.

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: Josh Minges, Esq.

STAFF: Jocelyn G. Boyd, Deputy Clerk; Doug Pratt and
William O. Richardson, Advisory Staff; Jo Elizabeth M.
Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, Court Reporter.

APPEARANCES:

SCOTT ELLIOTT, *ESQUIRE*, representing AQUA SOUTH
CAROLINA, INC., APPLICANT

JEFFREY M. NELSON, *ESQUIRE*, and SHEALY BOLAND
REIBOLD, *ESQUIRE*, representing THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** This public hearing will
3 now come to order.

4 We're very happy to see so many of you here
5 tonight, and we're looking forward to hearing
6 from any and all of you who would like to speak
7 on this issue.

8 At this time, I'm going to ask Attorney Josh
9 Minges to read the docket

10 **MR. MINGES:** Thank you. Good evening. This
11 proceeding before the Public Service Commission
12 of South Carolina in Docket No. 2009-12-S
13 concerns the application of Aqua South Carolina
14 for a new schedule of rates and charges for sewer
15 services provided to customers in Spartanburg
16 County.

17 The public hearing has been scheduled in
18 this matter at 6 p.m. on June 25, 2009, in the
19 Spartanburg County Council Chambers, at 366 North
20 Church Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

21 The parties at tonight's hearing are Aqua
22 South, represented by Scott Elliott; and Office
23 of Regulatory Staff, represented by Jeff Nelson
24 and Shealy Reibold.

25 I'll be calling the names of the folks who

1 signed up to speak, to come forward and be sworn
2 in. Make sure that you give your name and
3 address when you come up to the podium, and then
4 you may proceed with your testimony. Please make
5 sure that you speak into the microphone for the
6 court reporter, because what you say will become
7 part of the record. Also, after you are done,
8 please remain at the stand for any questions the
9 Commissioners or the parties may have. And
10 lastly, I want to remind everyone that the public
11 hearing is your time to be heard on the proposed
12 rate increase, but the Commissioners will not be
13 taking questions. The Office of Regulatory Staff
14 and Aqua South will be available at the end of
15 the hearing for any questions you might have.

16 Thank you, Madam Chair, and the docket is in
17 order.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Mr. Minges.
19 At this time I would like to recognize that we
20 have two special guests here. Representative
21 Mike Forrester actually drove back into town from
22 a family vacation, and we certainly appreciate
23 your being here tonight, and I know that your
24 constituents will, as well. We know you're a
25 hard worker for them, and I believe you had

1 something that you wanted to say. And I also
2 wanted to recognize Councilman Dale Culbreth, and
3 we're happy to have you here tonight, as well.
4 And we know that you all work very hard for this
5 community, and appreciate the work you do.
6 Representative Forrester.

7 **REP. FORRESTER:** Thank you, Madam Chair,
8 members of the Commission. I want to thank you
9 all for being -- for voting to come here to have
10 this hearing. I know it's troublesome on your
11 part to travel from Columbia in other parts of
12 the State here, but I do appreciate, on behalf of
13 our constituents in Spartanburg County, the
14 concerns, and certainly viable concerns.

15 I know, in the Legislature this year, we
16 fought to not raise taxes in the time of a down
17 economy. We're seeing a down economy across the
18 United States, we're seeing it in our State, and
19 we're certainly seeing it here in Spartanburg
20 County. The month of April, we saw the worst, on
21 record, unemployment rate in our State. And I
22 think May, the numbers are coming out, and is
23 going to be even worse. And we're seeing that in
24 Spartanburg County.

25 Our constituents, some of these folks that

1 you will be hearing from tonight, are on fixed
2 incomes. Having a mother who's 78, I know how
3 that is, because I handle her finances, and
4 having an increase at a time in a down economy
5 certainly is as concerning to these folks as it
6 is to myself, but having been on the utility
7 side, I know there's times when you have to have
8 increases, but there may be better times to
9 consider that.

10 But I do appreciate you being here and
11 listening to these folks tonight, and I hope
12 you'll give it your due consideration. Thank
13 you, so much.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We certainly will, and
15 thank you. Councilman Culbreth.

16 [Witness sworn]

17 THEREUPON came,

18 **D A L E C U L B R E T H ,**
19 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
20 follows:

21 **COUNCILMAN CULBREATH:** My name is Dale
22 Culbreth. I'm County Councilman for the district
23 we're concerned with here tonight. Madam
24 Chairman, I do thank you for allowing me to be
25 here. Honored Commissioners, I do thank you for

1 being here to listen to our good people. I
2 wanted Mike to speak before me because I figured
3 he would do an excellent job and I could stand up
4 and say, "Me too."

5 [Laughter]

6 So, I do -- my words pretty much relay what
7 he has said. These are hard times. We're going
8 through changes in our State and our County that
9 reflects on our economy, and the people in my
10 district that I represent, as Mike said, a lot of
11 those are people on fixed incomes. And for that
12 reason, you know, I do come and ask you to really
13 consider the proposals here tonight and to keep
14 these good people's hearts and minds in yours.
15 Thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, very much. At
17 this time, we are going to call up the people who
18 signed in to speak. And Ms. Truly, I believe --

19 **MS. TRULY:** [Indicating.]

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes. She has signed, as
21 well. Our normal procedure is that if you have
22 testified at a hearing, that's usually a one-time
23 thing, but this is an exception since we are
24 coming to Spartanburg, and if there's no
25 objection from the parties on either side, we

1 would welcome her to speak, as well.

2 MR. ELLIOTT: Delighted to have Ms. Truly
3 here this evening.

4 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right.

5 MR. NELSON: We have no objection.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, very well. So
7 we'll just go through -- if you'll call out the
8 list of people who signed in.

9 **MR. MINGES:** With that, I would call Eddrena
10 Truly first. Please come forward, Ms. Truly.

11 [Witness sworn]

12 THEREUPON came,

13 EDDRENA L. TRULY,

14 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
15 follows:

16 **WITNESS:** Hello everyone. My name is
17 Eddrena Truly. I reside at 8 Oakridge Court,
18 Wellford, South Carolina, I'm here to discuss the
19 shocking news, again, that we discussed on May
20 28th, regarding an increase in the sewage bill.

21 You all may have received an e-mail from me
22 over the last couple of days, and some of those
23 things -- not to go over the same thing that we
24 discussed when I came down to Columbia on May
25 28th, but I would like some of those things to be

1 discussed in the letter in regards to what has
2 Aqua done for our community since they've taken
3 over the sewage system? They claim that on their
4 website.

5 Just some things that I had saw on their
6 website, as far as the profits that they've
7 earned, and the first letter that you all had
8 sent out stated basically that since they had not
9 had an increase since February 1996, that you
10 want the Brookside community basically to pay,
11 you know, for that. But the large, you know,
12 several number of webpages that they have just
13 constantly homes in on profit, profit, profit.

14 The community in which I live: low income,
15 no income, fixed income. People cannot afford to
16 pay more than what they already are paying for
17 their sewer bill at this time. That's just, you
18 know, I have never seen anything like that. 108
19 percent. To be exact, 108.45 percent increase,
20 from \$20.50 to \$42.73. I've never seen any
21 company go that over- -- double. You do it in
22 slow phases, or something, and then you have a
23 reason. Actual truth, actual reasons why you're
24 going to increase a bill.

25 So that's basically where I stand today. I

1 would like some of the things that I addressed in
2 the letter that I had sent to you all over the
3 last couple of days to be addressed today, you
4 know, and to please explain to the community why
5 is this happening. Nobody can afford to pay.
6 We're all in a recession. Some of you may even
7 be pinching pennies at this time. So right now,
8 why would we pay a company that's making
9 millions, possibly billions of dollars, more
10 money when we don't have the money right now?

11 And that's where I stand at this point. And
12 if somebody could address what I had stated in
13 the letter, I would appreciate it.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Truly, first
15 of all, we are not allowed to address those
16 issues.

17 **WITNESS:** Okay.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We are acting as judges,
19 and are here to hear what you have to say.

20 **WITNESS:** Okay.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Both parties may ask
22 questions of you, and the Commission may. But
23 after the meeting, you can go up to both sides:
24 the Office of Regulatory Staff, Ms. Reibold and
25 Mr. Nelson; and also the parties representing

1 Aqua America, Mr. Scott Elliott, and I'm not
2 sure --

3 MR. ELLIOTT: I Didn't get a chance to
4 introduce David Schlobohm. He's the director of
5 operations for South and North Carolina.

6 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. So I'm sure
7 they can be very helpful in answering some of the
8 questions that you have.

9 WITNESS: Okay.

10 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Was there something else
11 you wanted to --

12 WITNESS: Well, so, I have to go to them, or
13 they'll go over the letter with me?

14 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes. After the hearing.

15 WITNESS: Okay. All right. Okay. Okay,
16 thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Now just a
18 minute. Let's see if we have any questions. Mr.
19 Nelson?

20 MR. NELSON: No questions, Madam Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Elliott?

22 MR. ELLIOTT: No questions, Madam Chair. We
23 appreciate Ms. Truly coming out tonight.

24 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. And
25 Commissioners? All right. Thank you, very much,

1 Ms. Truly.

2 WITNESS: Thank you.

3 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

4 MR. MINGES: I'll call the next witness.

5 Kerry Ballenger?

6 [Witness sworn]

7 THEREUPON came,

8 K E R R Y B A L L E N G E R ,

9 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
10 follows:

11 WITNESS: Good evening. I'm Kerry
12 Ballenger, from 109 Millbank Road, in Wellford,
13 South Carolina. That's in the Brookside
14 Subdivision, which is basically why most people
15 are here. And I just wanted to testify that I
16 was shocked and appalled when I opened up the
17 statement and seen that our sewage rates could
18 possibly double, now, in a time -- as everybody
19 has already emphasized -- in an economy where
20 everybody is watching every little penny they
21 spend, a bill that doubled is outrageous. We all
22 felt it when the gas almost doubled, everyone in
23 this room. Fortunately, the gas come down, okay?
24 But in this situation, the bill is going to be
25 raised and will never come down. Utilities don't

1 raise bills and then a year later say, "You know
2 what, we charged too much. We're going to bring
3 it back down." They go up and up and up, while
4 in the meantime, people's economy is staying the
5 same, the same, the same, the same, the same.
6 And it's ridiculous.

7 If the sewage company can do it, the water
8 company can do it; Duke Power, they can do it.
9 "Either pay it or we'll shut off," and in the
10 meantime we're struggling trying to make a living
11 and it's not working. So I'm begging you guys to
12 please listen to the testimony, look at the
13 people who are up here. This is not a rich
14 community, it's a poor community. No water
15 routes. I've heard somebody out here tonight say
16 this mud just runs over the road. There's no
17 ditches, no drainage, no water runoff. And yet
18 our sewage is going up, and up, and up. And it's
19 just appalling. We should not let this happen,
20 and we shouldn't stand here for it. And that's
21 basically all I have for this evening. Thank
22 you, very much.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, thank you. Mr.
24 Elliott, do you have any questions?

25 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No, ma'am. I appreciate Mr.

1 Ballenger's appearance tonight. Thank you.

2 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chair.

3 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, just a minute.
5 Commissioners?

6 **EXAMINATION**

7 **BY COMMISSIONER CLYBURN:**

8 **Q** Mr. Ballenger, can you tell me how long you've resided
9 at your current address and been a member -- or, a
10 customer of this system?

11 **A** I have been currently in my address for approximately
12 two years.

13 **Q** Okay. And you mention some water -- some drainage
14 issues and water runs. Is that -- those are the
15 responsibility of the utility, what you're talking
16 about, those are part of the infrastructure of the
17 utility?

18 **A** Yes. I'm not sure if it's part of the actual Aqua's
19 responsibility for water runoff. My point being is,
20 if one of the sewage lines was to break, it has
21 nowhere to go. It's not captured in a ditch. It just
22 runs completely over the road -- which has happened.

23 **Q** I understand.

24 **A** And it's not a good feeling in that neighborhood.

25 **Q** I understand. Thank you.

1 **A** Thank you.

2 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** Madam?

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, Commissioner
4 Mitchell.

5 **EXAMINATION**

6 **BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

7 **Q** Yes, sir. Do you have any service problems?

8 **A** I do not.

9 **Q** Are you having any problems with the service that's
10 provided?

11 **A** No, absolutely not.

12 **Q** Okay. I just wanted to clarify that. I didn't hear
13 you bring any up, so actually, the service is good?

14 **A** Absolutely. In my perspective, yes.

15 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** Thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other
17 questions?

18 [No response]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If not, you may return to
20 your seat.

21 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

23 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

24 **MR. MINGES:** SuAnn Purdy, would you come
25 forward?

1 [Witness sworn]

2 THEREUPON came,

3 S U A N N P U R D Y ,

4 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
5 follows:

6 WITNESS: My name is SuAnn Purdy, and I live
7 at 10 Oakridge Court, and I'm here on behalf of
8 all these people. And I have seen the water run
9 -- I live in a cul-de-sac, and where I live, I
10 live right dead in, when you pull in, and the
11 water runs down my driveway. I don't know if the
12 sewage would ever break in anybody's house, if it
13 would run towards my house. I don't know. But
14 the way the water -- when it rains -- it would
15 probably come in that direction of the sewage
16 were to break, because everybody is uphill above
17 me.

18 So that is a concern for me, because they
19 should've -- when they built it, they should've
20 put something in the middle of the subdivision
21 circle there, a drain into the sewage that's in
22 my backyard. I have a manhole cover in my
23 backyard. I've not had a problem with it, yet.
24 I hope I don't have a problem with it, because I
25 have animals.

1 But I'm just here in behalf of all these
2 people. We do not have a lot of money. We live
3 day by day. I'm disabled. My husband and a lot
4 of these people here are disabled. And I just
5 hope that you take all of what we have to say in
6 behalf of everything, and think about all of us
7 and what we have to go through every day. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Just a
10 minute. Let's see if there are any questions for
11 you.

12 WITNESS: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Elliott.

14 MR. ELLIOTT: No, ma'am. I would thank Ms.
15 Purdy for coming out.

16 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right.

17 MR. NELSON: No questions, Madam Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right.

19 Commissioners.

20 COMMISSIONER HAMILTON: I have one, Madam
21 Chair.

22 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes, Commissioner
23 Hamilton.

24 >

25 >

1 **EXAMINATION**

2 **BY COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:**

3 **Q** Ms. Purdy, on your sewer line, is your sewer line in
4 the back or the front of your house? I know you said
5 that the manhole was in the back.

6 **A** It's in the back of the yard. It runs straight around
7 on the back of our houses, behind Eddrena's, it runs
8 right straight around. Yes, sir.

9 **Q** Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

10 **A** You're welcome.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other
12 questions?

13 [No response]

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may be
15 excused.

16 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

17 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

18 **MR. MINGES:** Laketa Case, could you come
19 forward, please?

20 [Witness sworn]

21 THEREUPON came,

22 **L A K E T A C A S E ,**

23 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
24 follows:

25 **WITNESS:** Laketa Case, 117 Wellington Road,

1 Wellford. I've been there over 20 years. When
2 we got here, it was single-family dwellings, real
3 nice place to live at. They had a lot of rules
4 and restrictions. Unfortunately -- one of them
5 was no businesses -- they started bringing in
6 rentals, and now you've got, instead of single
7 families, a lot -- a whole lot of the places have
8 eight or more people, a lot of them have 10, 15
9 people in them, so I can see why the sewer would
10 go up, but I do not understand why a normal
11 family -- which around us, most of them is two
12 people, except for a few where the renters are
13 where there's a whole lot of people living in the
14 mobile homes -- why should we have to pay because
15 these people moved in under circumstances that
16 weren't even supposed to be there, and now we
17 have to pay for all these people using the sewer,
18 when it wasn't supposed to be that way. And
19 that's all I have to say about it.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Are there any
21 questions, Mr. Elliott?

22 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No, ma'am. Thank you, Ms.
23 Case, for coming out.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

25 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chair.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.
2 Commissioners.

3 **EXAMINATION**

4 **BY COMMISSIONER CLYBURN:**

5 **Q** May I ask you -- you said you've been at your present
6 address for 20 years, and you mentioned, you know, the
7 changes that have taken place. Tell me a bit about
8 your current bill, per se. Is it a flat rate or is it
9 what we call a metered rate? Is it based on usage?

10 **A** No, it is not. It started out -- when we moved there,
11 it was \$5.00 a month, and then they moved it up to
12 \$20.50. They don't have any kind of meters on there.
13 Everybody -- in fact, the reason it went up the first
14 time was because people weren't paying their sewer
15 bill, and so the ones that were paying, there wasn't
16 any way to say, "Okay, they are paying. These people
17 aren't. We can shut theirs off," because there's no
18 way to individually shut off somebody's sewer. It all
19 runs together. So we had to pay for the ones that
20 weren't paying, which were, when they moved in, the
21 renters.

22 There's no way to say -- in fact, I wrote a
23 letter, and they sent back a letter saying that from
24 our history, we were using -- I can't remember the
25 exact number, but we were using a little over 3,000

1 gallons a month, and the average was 6,000-something.
2 So that shows that we are paying -- we're using at
3 least less than half than everybody else, and still
4 having to pay the same amount.

5 **Q** If there were -- if it could happen, you know, from a
6 physical or from a technological standpoint, would you
7 object to a metered approach?

8 **A** I wish that's what they would do. It would be a lot
9 fairer to everybody.

10 **Q** Thank you.

11 **A** Uh-huh.

12 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** I have one.

13 **EXAMINATION**

14 **BY COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:**

15 **Q** Ms Case, when you first moved in 20 years ago, who was
16 your sewer provider?

17 **A** Oh, gosh, I don't re- -- it was so long ago.

18 **Q** Was it the developer, or --

19 **A** Yes, the developer put everything in. And then,
20 unfortunately -- I mean, we had all kinds of rules.
21 It was a really strict neighborhood. Then he left,
22 and it went downhill from there. But yeah, they said
23 they've had it, and you paid them the \$5.00 a month at
24 that time.

25 **Q** But since the developer left the system or sold it,

1 you've had -- the rates have increased?

2 **A** Yeah, the first -- when it went to the \$20.50, I don't
3 remember who that was, and then they came in -- what,
4 about three -- around five years is how long Aqua
5 Source [sic]. I can't remember exactly, but they've
6 taken it up lately.

7 **Q** Have you had any service problems in the 20 years
8 you've been a resident?

9 **A** No, the service has been good. The only problem we
10 had is last month they came through and checked the
11 manholes and things, because somebody -- the ones down
12 from us had their sewer connected, and they said
13 theirs wasn't working right -- which we are uphill, so
14 the flow goes down. And when they came and fixed
15 everything, they didn't repair the road. They just
16 left the big hole. So now you have to go around it,
17 because they didn't put the asphalt back or anything
18 when they dug the hole to the sewer.

19 **Q** Thank you, very much, Ms. Case.

20 **A** You're welcome.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other
22 questions?

23 [No response]

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If not, you may be
25 excused.

1 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

2 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

3 **MR. MINGES:** Timothy Purdy, did I skip you?

4 Would you like to come forward?

5 [Witness sworn]

6 THEREUPON came,

7 **T I M O T H Y P U R D Y ,**

8 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
9 follows:

10 **WITNESS:** My name is Timothy Purdy. I live
11 at 10 Oakridge Court, Wellford, South Carolina.
12 And I'm here to -- and I want to thank you for
13 listening to what I have to say about this
14 matter.

15 First of all, it has to do with the 108
16 percent increase, which compared is a total of
17 208 percent. That's what my banker told me it
18 is. It's 108, but then a total of 208 percent.
19 And I do have a paper here that I printed out.
20 It's a consumer price index summary. It shows
21 services of goods, like food and beverage,
22 apparel, transportation, medical, recreation,
23 education, other goods, food, energy, all of
24 these, and on this paper, not one item is 108
25 percent. There's different ones of different

1 varieties of 3 percent, 1 percent, 2 percent, and
2 so on. And my point there is over that year,
3 nothing has went up 108 percent.

4 The other point I have to say is, over the
5 12 -- Aqua sent us a paper saying that they lost
6 \$42,456 for the test year of 2008. What I want
7 to know is how often do they make this test year?
8 If it has been over 12 years, then that should be
9 divided -- \$42,456 divided over the 12 years is
10 only \$3,538, is what it's costing them over a 12-
11 year period. So was they making profits for 11
12 years and only lost money for that one year?

13 And also, I don't think any of us want to
14 put a door in our house that we have to pay to
15 get into our bathroom and cost a certain amount
16 in order to use the bathroom.

17 I'm trying to make -- I have also some
18 printouts of other increases around the nation
19 and around the State, that none of them are 108
20 percent increase. Let me see if I have my paper
21 here. I'll make this as brief as possible. And
22 one other thing, I know they're wanting to give
23 us a flat rate of -- and I'll make this brief as
24 possible. They are wanting to charge us to --
25 they're already charging us \$270 a year, at

1 \$22.50 times 12, and so they want to charge us
2 \$42.73 times 12, which is going to be \$512.76 a
3 year, is what they're wanting to charge us. Now,
4 that \$576 a year, in a person that lives by
5 theirself, a little old lady who's on a fixed
6 income, who may use the restroom only twice a day
7 -- use that as an average -- it's going to cost
8 her -- if she uses it once, it's \$1.40 per visit.
9 If she uses it twice, it's a \$.70 per visit. A
10 family of two, it's going to be -- so on and so
11 on, and then a family of four. It's not equaling
12 out to where it's fair, to where the less you use
13 the john, the more it costs you. The more you
14 use it, the less it costs you.

15 So one other hypothetical question is, if
16 five households use one household's restroom,
17 does that mean the other four households are
18 exempt because they're not using their sewage?
19 Or if you go out of town for a month and you
20 haven't used your sewage and you're still being
21 charged \$42.73, and you haven't even used your
22 restroom?

23 I thank you for your time and I'd like to
24 give you these papers. I can print them out
25 again. And I thank you very much.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Would you like to enter
2 those, Mr. Purdy, into the evidence of the case?

3 **WITNESS:** Yes, I would.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Richardson, if you
5 would show them to the two parties?

6 [Documents published to parties'
7 counsel]

8 **WITNESS:** Oh, and one other thing. If they
9 do need to put a meter on, they know how -- I
10 believe they know how much water we each use, and
11 so I think what goes into the house has to go out
12 also. So apparently they would be able to maybe
13 figure it that way or something. And I thank you
14 for your time.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you could just wait a
16 minute while they look at that.

17 **WITNESS:** Okay.

18 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Indulge me one moment Madam
19 Chair. Mr. Purdy has been very thorough.

20 **WITNESS:** Can I say one other thing? I did
21 check with City of Spartanburg on how much their
22 rate is, and it's only like -- they'd only had a
23 9 percent increase over the past two years, and
24 Inman only charges \$3-and-something per thousand
25 gallons. And I tried to get other information,

1 and I was just trying to get whatever information
2 I could for surrounding areas on how much the
3 sewage costs. And I'm sure you all are available
4 to get all the information you need, so that way
5 it's fair on everybody.

6 [Brief pause]

7 One other question. I didn't ask whether
8 the company makes any money off of bio-solids or
9 anything like that, which would be profitable off
10 of the consumer who provides them the bio-solids,
11 and then yet they make monies off of bio-solids,
12 too.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, I think Mr. Elliott
14 might be able to answer that for you, after.

15 **WITNESS:** Okay. Yes.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Elliott?

17 **MR. ELLIOTT:** I appreciate Mr. Purdy's hard
18 work, but I would have no questions for him.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Are both of you
20 agreeable to those being entered into the
21 evidence of the case?

22 **MR. ELLIOTT:** I would have no objection.

23 **MR. NELSON:** No objection to it.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Purdy's
25 information will be entered as composite Exhibit

1 No. 8, and it will be entered into the evidence
2 of the case.

3 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 8 was
4 marked and received in evidence.]

5 Commissioners, do you have any questions?

6 **VICE CHAIRMAN HOWARD:** I do.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes.

8 **EXAMINATION**

9 **BY VICE CHAIRMAN HOWARD:**

10 **Q** Did you say you had a meter on your water?

11 **A** Sir? Oh, no, I'm saying I don't know either way. I'm
12 not sure whether we have a meter on our water, but I
13 guess the water company -- and they said they only
14 went up 6 percent. I talked to the lady -- her card
15 is in the paperwork. She said that her boss said they
16 only went up on the water only 3 to 6 percent the last
17 time they went up on the water, so I don't know why
18 they'd be wanting to go up 108 percent.

19 **Q** Do you know if your water bill includes a usage tax?

20 **A** Oh, and -- I'm not quite sure about that, but those
21 figures also doesn't include that water bill, too.
22 That just includes the sewage, I think.

23 **Q** Thank you, very much.

24 **A** Thank you.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other --

1 COMMISSIONER CLYBURN: Mr. Purdy?

2 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Purdy, if you please?

3 There are other questions. Commissioner Clyburn.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY COMMISSIONER CLYBURN:

6 Q Mr. Purdy, you've provided some comparables, and I
7 guess I wanted to ask you, your bill is apparently a
8 flat rate of \$20.50?

9 A As far as I know, it is, which that's what was told to
10 us, was the \$20.50, and then but they're wanting to go
11 up on it over doubled.

12 Q I understand. Let me ask you, how long has that rate
13 been in effect?

14 A Well, I've only been there for about three years, so
15 I'm not sure. My wife and I, we both pay the bills,
16 but she keeps track of a lot of that herself.

17 Q She keeps the check ledger?

18 A Yeah, she keeps track of most of that.

19 Q Okay.

20 A But the thing is, too, it's a flat rate, and it seems
21 like it's penalizing you, the less you use it then the
22 more you use, and that's the reason I brought up the
23 point about the more a person uses it, that it's going
24 to cost them less --

25 Q I understand.

1 **A** -- whereas somebody who's not using it as often is
2 getting charged just as much as a person that's using
3 it more.

4 **Q** I understand your point. Thank you.

5 **A** Thank you.

EXAMINATION

7 BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:

8 **Q** Mr. Purdy, I'd like to ask a question that's been
9 asked of others. Have you had any problems with your
10 service?

11 **A** No, the service has been fine. They do have a right-
12 of-way or something in order to get to the piping
13 behind each of the -- behind our house. So I know if
14 they have any kind of a problem, that they can come
15 through and get to the piping, and we're supposed to
16 keep that clear for them in order to get to the
17 piping. But I haven't had no problem with the
18 service.

19 We do have flooding in our streets, though, too.
20 I don't know if that's a concern or not. But I -- I
21 don't know what else to say.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Very good.

23 Well, thank you so much.

24 **WITNESS:** Thank you, very much. Is that --

25 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: You may be excused.

1 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

2 **MR. MINGES:** The next witness tonight would
3 be Patricia Lindsey.

4 [Witness sworn]

5 THEREUPON came,

6 **P A T R I C I A L I N D S E Y ,**
7 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
8 follows:

9 **WITNESS:** My name is Patricia Lindsey. I
10 live at 10 Doby Court, at Brookside Village, at
11 Wellford. I have lived there for 24 years now.
12 I first lived in the housing section. I lost my
13 house in 2001 because of the economy and loss of
14 my job after 17 years, and I moved into one of
15 the trailers, which is where I live now. I've
16 been there now, since 2001.

17 I don't understand why -- they raised the
18 rate from whatever it was, and I don't remember
19 how much it was. I know it wasn't much. But
20 they raised it somewhere around 2000 and they
21 raised it to \$20.50. Back then, it was even
22 almost doubled or whatever, tripled. I don't
23 know, I can't remember that far back. I've got
24 my water bill. My water bill also includes my
25 sewer bill. My sewer bill is \$20.50. My water

1 bill is only \$12. My water bill has only gone up
2 \$2.00 in the last five years.

3 I don't understand why they're jumping up.
4 And my letter that I got, I remember it saying --
5 I thought it said \$49. And somebody else said
6 they heard it was \$42, okay? I don't have that
7 copy with me, because I could not -- there was no
8 way I was going to make it down to Columbia,
9 because I am handicapped, I'm on a fixed income.
10 I got a raise. I got a raise of \$86, which comes
11 to for the year is going to be \$1,032 for the
12 whole year added to my income, and if they raise
13 this up to the \$42, as the gentleman before me
14 said, it's going to cost \$504. I'm only going to
15 get my \$528 out of my fixed income for my other
16 increases for the year, that are going to
17 transpire, which is food, power -- power is going
18 up, the gas is going up. It doesn't make sense
19 to go up this much.

20 If you have to go up, why can't you do it in
21 increments? It just doesn't make any sense to
22 make this kind of an increase for this kind of a
23 service. And that's what I wanted to say. I
24 couldn't have made it to Columbia, but since you
25 all moved it here, I'm so glad you did. I thank

1 you.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Elliott?

3 **MR. ELLIOTT:** We're glad Ms. Lindsey could
4 make it here tonight. We appreciate that, but we
5 have no questions.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Mr. Nelson?

7 **MR. NELSON:** No questions from ORS.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

9 Commissioners? Yes.

10 **WITNESS:** Now, I'm a little bit deaf, so --
11 okay?

12 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Okay, Ms. Lindsey,
13 I'll try to speak up.

14 **EXAMINATION**

15 **BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:**

16 **Q** Commissioner Clyburn started to ask this last time,
17 and I think Ms. Case, I believe, is the one who had
18 been a long-term resident, too, maybe 20 years. Did
19 you say that you thought your bill was raised in the
20 year 2000?

21 **A** I think it was the year 2000. I still I lived in my
22 house, so it had to be -- and I lost my house in 2001.

23 **Q** And it was raised to \$20.50?

24 **A** It was raised to \$20.50, then, which I don't know what
25 the rate was before that.

1 **Q** That's what -- I think Ms. Case said it was \$5.00.

2 **A** It was very minimal then. It was about the same rate
3 as our water bill, back in those days.

4 **Q** I'm just trying to get at when that increase was and
5 how much it was.

6 **A** Yes, sir.

7 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Thank you, ma'am.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other
9 questions?

10 [No response]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may be
12 excused. Thank you for being here.

13 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

14 **MR. MINGES:** Okay. Effie Holcomb, would you
15 come down, please?

16 [Witness sworn]

17 THEREUPON came,

18 **E F F I E H O L C O M B ,**

19 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
20 follows:

21 **WITNESS:** Effie Holcomb. 216 Penrose Lane,
22 Wellford, South Carolina.

23 It's the wrong time to make this rate
24 increase. Everybody would end up with no sewage
25 because they couldn't afford it. A water bill is

1 only \$12 a month. Why is sewage double that? It
2 doesn't make sense.

3 I come from New York State. Water was free.
4 Sewage was free. Now I've got to pay for it.
5 It's a rough transition. I've had no problems
6 with it, but there are so many in our area that
7 are disabled. I have an older lady across the
8 street, she's got to be 90 years old. What is
9 the poor woman going to do? She's got to be on a
10 fixed income. The families that are in that area
11 are extremely low income or no jobs, particularly
12 in this last year.

13 And I do appreciate you moving it back here
14 to Spartanburg. because I couldn't afford the gas
15 to go to Columbia. Half of us couldn't afford
16 the gas to go to Columbia. That's all I have.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Elliott?

18 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Madam Chair, I thank Ms.
19 Holcomb for being here, but I have no questions.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

21 **MR. NELSON:** No questions from ORS, Madam
22 Chair.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.
24 Commissioners?

25 **COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:** Real quick.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, Commissioner Wright.

2 **EXAMINATION**

3 **BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:**

4 **Q** Did I miss, or can you tell me how long you've
5 lived --

6 **A** Approximately two years.

7 **Q** Two years.

8 **A** It'll be two years in October. I have had no problems
9 with the water service.

10 **Q** You anticipated my next question.

11 **A** Beat you to it.

12 [Laughter]

13 **WITNESS:** And I got a laugh out of you guys.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

15 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

16 **COMMISSIONER FLEMING:** If you'd call our
17 next witness.

18 **MR. MINGES:** Thank you. Larry Gosnell,
19 would you come forward?

20 [Witness sworn]

21 THEREUPON came,

22 **L A R R Y D . G O S N E L L ,**

23 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
24 follows:

25 **WITNESS:** My name is Larry D. Gosnell. I

1 live at 18 Oakridge Court, Wellford, Brookside
2 Village. I moved there in 1974. I bought a
3 mobile home and a lot from L.P. Pitts and Frank
4 Nutt. I think he's County Council or something
5 to do here with Spartanburg.

6 I've lived there for 11 years. I sold my
7 mobile home, I bought a house at 18 Oakridge.
8 And I've been there since '83. I've seen a
9 lot -- we started out, it was a good
10 neighborhood. We was supposed to have a pool,
11 tennis courts. You had your restrictions. And
12 then everything went downhill. When the
13 developer sold all their lots, they made their
14 money, they moved on. And now you've got any-
15 and everything living in Brookside.

16 The other week -- I'm on a fixed income
17 myself -- the other week there were a sewer
18 problem, because I live on Oakridge and Millbank,
19 and there was a company coming out there trying
20 to repair whatever the problem was. Well, these
21 people didn't even know where the manholes were,
22 and so they kept riding around, after four hours,
23 and so I assumed they were looking for the
24 manholes or whatever. I went out and I asked
25 them could I help them, since I've been there

1 since '74. And the guy said that he had all the
2 manholes taken care of. Well, the one that is
3 right at where I live, they didn't have a clue
4 that it was there, nor the one that's on the
5 corner of my lot. They don't even know that it's
6 there, and that it runs back around to the flood
7 zone in the back. And I've seen them take
8 bicycles out, sewage has come down where it would
9 stop up and I've seen the manholes actually blow
10 off of the road and water would be gushing down
11 the road, down the streets. And it's just a
12 downhill battle.

13 And with the rate increase -- when I first
14 moved there, I paid \$5.00 a month. We had our
15 own treatment place in the back of Brookside.
16 Then it got where it was smelling so bad that
17 that's when they turned it over to whoever, and
18 we don't have -- it's tied into the sewer system
19 now. And it's just been a downhill battle with
20 all of it.

21 And like some of the other people, we've got
22 petitions. I've got out, and the first lady that
23 spoke -- I forgot her name -- she lives right
24 above me, and we've got petitions. A lot of
25 people have signed petitions that they don't

1 agree with the rate, and it's just -- to me, it's
2 just like unfair going up that much.

3 And if you're going to send somebody out,
4 they need to get a plat to know where the
5 manholes are, if you've got a problem, whether it
6 be day or night, and they need some kind of a
7 plat to know where they're at. But, you know, as
8 I see, they were riding around for the two to
9 three hours, or whatever, and so the man was
10 surprised that, oh, here's a manhole. He didn't
11 -- I said, "Well, I've been here since '74. And
12 if you all have any other problems, feel free to
13 come to my house. I can show you where most
14 everything is."

15 And it's just -- like I say, it's just --
16 the right-of-ways and things when they put the
17 cable in, instead of coming down -- because I'm
18 on the corner lot. Instead of them coming down,
19 they go in and out of the bushes or the shrubs
20 that I have there, and I can't put a fence up
21 because of the way they run the cable lines. You
22 don't know where nothing is that. It's just --
23 you know, like I say, everybody's made their
24 money, and they're gone.

25 And now -- like I said, the rentals, and

1 then we get the landfill. It was shot down
2 because everybody didn't want a race track, so
3 now we've got a landfill on top of us. Waste
4 Management is across the street digging out dirt.
5 Well, eventually, they're going to put something
6 in that hole over there. And it's just a
7 downhill battle. I mean, it's, how you say,
8 eventually we're going to be living in sewer and
9 the landfill is going to be all the way around
10 us. And it's just -- the trucks, the traffic. I
11 mean, like one of the people were saying, the
12 roads, they come out there and all this and still
13 got the gravel and stuff. Nobody has repaired
14 it. They don't care. Nobody cares.

15 And I have worked all my life for what I've
16 got out there. I'm too old to start over again.
17 And it's just that this rate increase, to me, is
18 just outrageous. And somebody needs to -- so
19 many things go on in Brookside. Theft,
20 shootings, all this stuff. We never hear about
21 anything on the TV or the news about what happens
22 in Brookside. It's like a hush-hush. And I have
23 seen it all. And a lot of people can vouch for
24 that.

25 **VOICE:** Amen.

1 **WITNESS:** And I just -- like I say, I've
2 been there. If I was able -- you know, if
3 anybody could move in Brookside, if they're going
4 to buy something and they've got good credit,
5 they're not going to buy in Brookside; they're
6 going to go somewhere else. But it's the low
7 income, somebody to have a roof over their head,
8 and it's bad. That's all you can say.

9 I've even suggested they put a substation at
10 the fire department so the police will save
11 money, instead of having to drive from town out
12 to Brookside, because it's nothing for them to be
13 out there three or four times a day, and it's
14 just -- I mean, it's just one thing after the
15 other. But, I mean, with the sewer going up like
16 it has and all, I just don't see it. That's all
17 I have to say.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Mr. Gosnell.
19 First of all, I believe you said you had some
20 petitions?

21 **WITNESS:** I give them to the first lady that
22 -- the one that come to Columbia.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Oh, okay. So they'd
24 already been entered.

25 **WITNESS:** I give them to her. There should

1 be some more names that we have gotten.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Well, we'll
3 ask her.

4 **WITNESS:** Because I know some people, like
5 the lady was saying, a lot of people are on fixed
6 income. Some people don't have cars. They
7 couldn't even come to the meeting tonight. And
8 they sure couldn't go to Columbia. So, in the
9 event there should be another meeting or
10 anything, I hope that it is here so that people
11 can come and voice their opinion.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott,
13 do you have any questions?

14 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No, ma'am. I appreciate Mr.
15 Gosnell being there.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

17 **MR. NELSON:** I actually do have a couple of
18 questions.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

20 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

21 **BY MR. NELSON:**

22 **Q** Mr. Gosnell, could you tell me when you talked about
23 the truck coming out and riding around the
24 neighborhood and everything that you were telling us
25 about? Do you know when --

1 **A** That was approximately, I'm wanting to think three to
2 four weeks ago. And it was like -- I can't remember
3 the name on the truck.

4 **Q** That was going to be my next question.

5 **A** Yeah, I can't remember. It was like -- I seen it but
6 I -- I should've put it down, but I have a plat myself
7 of the back of Brookside, showing the sewer lines,
8 showing the water lines, different things. I'm sure
9 that somebody could get that. I know Frank Nutt was
10 here, but he has left.

11 Like I say, I was the second mobile home on
12 Penrose when they started the development, and the
13 house that I live in now, that was the first house in
14 the actual housing development, but it was not
15 supposed to -- when we moved there, up at the front,
16 there were not going to be any homes up in the front
17 to even start with. Then they decided that they were
18 going to build, and then like I say, the landfill
19 moved in on top of us. We get a little compensation
20 every month, some of us do. But it's not enough to
21 even -- you had to be there when the landfill came in.

22 And from what I understand, BMW, the gases that
23 come out of the landfill, they run a lot of their
24 machinery over at BMW, because I was there when they
25 run all the pipes from the landfill down the streets

1 all the way to BMW. And we had to put up with all
2 that mess. And like I say, it's just one thing after
3 the other. If I could afford to buy another home, I'd
4 just walk off and leave it. But I can't do it.

5 **Q** I had one other question. You talked about some
6 episodes of the manhole covers -- I mean, getting
7 backup through the sewers and the manhole covers
8 coming up. Do you remember any specific times or
9 dates when that might have happened?

10 **A** Well, like I say, I've been there -- it's been so much
11 going on at Brookside. I mean, it's hard to pinpoint
12 a date or time or anything like that, but over the
13 years -- I mean, this has been -- you know, you go up
14 this street and you can see water gushing out of the
15 manholes, and --

16 **Q** Is it usually related to rain, or is that backup?

17 **A** Just backup. The rain -- no, the rain, to me, has
18 never had an issue. It's always been, for whatever
19 reasons, they back up.

20 **Q** Do you recall any time within the last year or two?
21 Is there anything that happened recently that you can
22 think of?

23 **A** Well, matter of fact, I think they condemned a mobile
24 home close to me a few days ago because the lady's
25 sewer was stopped up in the manhole. And it was the

1 one they could not actually find. And that's the one
2 -- and they checked two or three different people's
3 outlets, and this one was completely stopped up. And
4 right now, the lady was renting; she moved out.

5 You've got all these people who buy these mobile
6 homes and lots. The one across from me, for instance,
7 I went -- they had a for-rent sign, and I knew it was
8 like a death trap, so I called and played like I
9 wanted to rent it. They told me they would not rent
10 me the mobile home, but they would give me the lot.
11 They was renting me the lot but not the mobile home.
12 And the wiring was hanging down, the hot water heater
13 was pulled out. I mean, it's just -- a lot of these
14 things need to be just torn down. They need to
15 bulldoze them. And the people that own the property,
16 they need to keep the grass cut or they need to sell
17 it to somebody who will keep it cut.

18 **Q** When you've seen some of these problems, does somebody
19 come out, normally, and fix the backups in the sewer
20 system?

21 **A** If they can find it. If they can find the manhole,
22 they do. But they ride up and down different streets
23 and they're looking. They're up on one end of
24 Millbank, and then they're on the end of Millbank. I
25 mean, there's manholes all in Brookside, and then the

1 company don't have a clue where they're at.

2 MR. NELSON: That's all the questions I
3 have, Madam Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Commissioner
5 Mitchell.

6 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: How you doing, Mr.
7 Gosnell? Glad to have you with us.

8 Only thing I would like, Madam Chairman, it
9 seems to be some concern as to who actually was
10 driving the trucks. I believe in your last
11 incident where you had to show them where to find
12 the manhole, if it would be possible, I'd like a
13 late-filed exhibit maybe from the company, if
14 they're subcontracting to someone, if there's a
15 record.

16 EXAMINATION

17 BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:

18 Q And did you give a date on that? I believe that was
19 very recent?

20 A It was recent, yeah. I know Ms. Littlejohn, my
21 neighbor back here -- I don't know remember if she
22 remembers the date.

23 WITNESS: Do you remember when you and I
24 were talking about it?

25 MS. LITTLEJOHN: I don't --

1 **WITNESS:** It's been recently. It's been
2 recently.

3 **BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

4 **Q** When you say recent, within the last month? Or --

5 **A** I would say between a month and six weeks.

6 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** Okay. If possible,
7 I would like a late-filed exhibit from the
8 company as to who might have been -- if that was
9 subcontracted or if that was actually the company
10 providing that service, if they could do that.

11 **WITNESS:** Well, I mean, it was a truck like,
12 I guess, they hire to come out and do whatever
13 they do, but it didn't have anything affiliated
14 with like the sewer district -- I mean, the sewer
15 company or water or anybody like that.

16 **BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

17 **Q** Did you call and seek that service? Did you report
18 that there was a problem?

19 **A** No, I didn't. No. I guess it was the lady where her
20 sewage was backing up in her mobile home. I guess she
21 did. I'm assuming that she did. But after the sewage
22 was running out in the yard and it wasn't flowing to
23 the appropriate area, then after awhile, you know, the
24 way the temperature is and you living that close to
25 it, you know, you're going to do something, you're

1 going to try to help them fix the problem, or do
2 something, because I don't like it running down the
3 street, not near my house.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioner Mitchell,
5 there seems to be a lot of uncertainty as to the
6 specifics. What if we asked if the company could
7 provide some of the recent calls that you have
8 had to attend to?

9 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Fair request. We are happy to
10 accommodate.

11 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** Right.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** In the last, say, the
13 last two months of repairs.

14 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Yes, ma'am. Sixty days?

15 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** And maybe if you had
16 an address on that, too.

17 **WITNESS:** Oh, it was on 333 Millbank Road.

18 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** There you go.

19 **WITNESS:** Because I live in 18 Oakridge,
20 which is right across from that, and like I say,
21 it's a downhill battle for all of us out there.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** So it would be specific
23 then, to --

24 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** That address, if
25 that would help --

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- that particular
2 address.

3 **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** -- aid the company.

4 **MR. ELLIOTT:** We'll have records or no
5 records, but we'll have a response. Thank you.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
7 Commissioners, are there any other questions?

8 [No response]

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If not, you may be
10 excused. Thank you.

11 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We'll enter the response
13 to that into the evidence of the case as Exhibit
14 No. 9.

15 And you could call our next witness.

16 **MR. MINGES:** Okay. Etta Littlejohn, could
17 you come forward, please?

18 [Witness sworn]

19 THEREUPON came,

20 **E T T A L . L I T T L E J O H N ,**

21 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
22 follows:

23 **WITNESS:** My name is Etta Littlejohn, and I
24 stay at 331 Millbank Road, in Wellford.

25 I moved in Brookside in '92, and if I'd

1 known that the landfill was being developed in
2 that area -- I didn't know at the time, when I
3 bought it, but -- started buying it, so I was
4 stuck with it. During the time since I've been
5 staying out there, I seen a lot of sewage
6 problems, which I had one of my own. I was
7 working at Springs Mill at the time. And when I
8 first moved in the trailer, when I moved over
9 there in the trailer, the water and everything in
10 the trailer was working fine, but the sewage line
11 would stop up from the manhole to the -- running
12 into the trailer. And I didn't know it at the
13 time, but when me and my children -- my children
14 small at the time and they was in the bathtub
15 taking a bath, and then I got ready to let the
16 water out -- I mean -- the water out, and the
17 sewage and all that stuff, it just backed up, was
18 coming up in my bathtub.

19 We couldn't even wash clothes, we couldn't
20 even take a bath, flush the commode, or do
21 anything. And I was, what you call it, renting
22 to own, at the time -- well, no, it was buying,
23 because I put \$1,000 down, and with the contract,
24 I was considered buying. But anyway, they came
25 out and was trying to get it unstopped, and from

1 my line to the manhole it was some -- I don't
2 know what -- it was some hard-looking stuff.
3 White, hard-looking stuff. They got it
4 unstopped, but then it was several years later I
5 end up -- I had to take and -- I was still
6 working at Springs at the time, and I thank the
7 Lord for that, because I had to spend out \$900-
8 and-some to get my line dug up all the way to the
9 manhole and have a new line put in.

10 And since then, I have seen sewage from
11 somebody else at the street -- I don't know where
12 it come from, but it was running down the street
13 and it looked like milky-looking, coming down --
14 it had the whole street covered. And then
15 whenever it dried up, it was like a white film
16 like. It was just over the road. And I have
17 seen -- several times I've seen where people had
18 problems with their sewage, it would run down the
19 roads.

20 And I don't understand why -- and another
21 thing, I don't understand why, just like the rest
22 of them, why they are doubling our sewage bill?
23 I can understand if they going to, you know, do
24 like Duke Power or something like that, just a
25 small percentage, you know, at a time. But 100

1 increase to me, you know, just hitting us, bam,
2 just hitting us like that, because I'm disabled
3 and I went through, before I got approved for my
4 disability, it was times when I didn't even have
5 -- I couldn't even pay my water bill. My water
6 was off. And I lived in my trailer for about
7 four or five months, didn't have water. Couldn't
8 even use the water or sewage or anything.

9 I couldn't even use it, because I couldn't
10 afford -- what happened, when my water got cut
11 off, I wasn't able to pay my water bill. My
12 water bill got cut off. The water company, even
13 though your water bill is off, they will still
14 add that \$25 late charge, even though your water
15 was off. My water bill got up to -- it was \$195,
16 and it wasn't no way I could pay that \$195. I
17 had done filed for my disability and I didn't
18 have any income coming in. My kids, they was
19 paying my -- paying on my water -- I mean, my
20 light bill to keep my lights and stuff on, and
21 giving me money to go to the doctor and get my
22 medicine and stuff like that. And I just -- I
23 just dealt with it. They would bring water, and
24 I just didn't -- nobody know it, but I'd just
25 deal with it. Some people in the neighborhood

1 did. And I'm afraid it's going to be some
2 elderly people that's on a fixed income what just
3 like me, they'll end up in the same situation.

4 Because if your sewage -- if your bill get
5 cut off and if you don't have money to pay that,
6 they're going to charge you -- a late fee is
7 going to be added onto that. And you got to
8 struggle trying to pay -- getting that money
9 paid, then you got to pay the bill. But if
10 you've got another bill coming up every -- it's
11 going to push it farther behind. I done been
12 there. I was there, and I had to live like that,
13 until I got my disability.

14 And right now, if one of my bills get
15 behind, if I need to go to the dentist, I don't
16 even have money to pay a dentist to go pull
17 teeth. I got this med- -- I didn't know about
18 Medicaid and all that. They don't pay nothing
19 for dental. And only way I can go to the dentist
20 -- I got several teeth need to be pulled. If I
21 go to the dentist, I got to pay that money up
22 front. And in order for me to do that, I'm going
23 to have to let a bill get behind. And if I let
24 -- I know if I let that bill get behind, with the
25 money I get a month, I'm going to have to play

1 catch-up. Something going to go to [word indiscernible]
2 it. Like that old saying, you got to rob here to
3 pay this one over here, but still you're behind.
4 It ain't no way -- on a fixed income, you can't
5 do it. Can't nobody can afford to pay like that.
6 You're going to continue to be behind, and then
7 you're going to get in a situation where it's
8 off, and then the late charges compound and
9 compound it, and then a person be living like
10 that. They don't know what else to do.

11 And if you ain't got family that got the
12 money to pay to help you to pay that bill, to
13 just help you out, you're just stuck, and you
14 just -- you live like that. And you'd be
15 surprised the people right now that's living like
16 that. We got people in here, right here in
17 America, living like that. They ain't got no
18 choice.

19 But I just -- my prayer is that they really
20 consider about adding this double charge onto our
21 sewage bill, because if the sewage get cut off,
22 it ain't going to do no good if you've got water,
23 where is it going to go? It ain't going to be
24 nothing but a big old mess out there in
25 Brookside. That's all it's going to be, if

1 people can't afford to pay it. I'm paying it
2 now, what I'm paying, but I know that I can't
3 afford to pay no \$40-some in sewage bill, and my
4 water bill is \$20.20. That's what I pay for
5 water, and I don't -- don't nobody stay there but
6 me. I'm the only one stay there. I don't wash
7 every day, I don't be washing cars. I have a car
8 but I don't wash it every day. You got some
9 people wash their cars every other day. If it
10 ain't spanky shining, you know, they figure they
11 ain't in with the gang. And you know, I mean,
12 you can't afford it.

13 Now, I'm not only speaking for myself, I'm
14 speaking for the other elderly people that stay
15 there, that stay by theirself. And they staying
16 by theirself, but some of them just barely is
17 hanging on staying by theirself, because if they
18 put any more charges on them, there won't be
19 nowhere they going to go stay. Some of them
20 probably ain't even got children to help them
21 out. They don't even have children they can go
22 to. They just -- because they got a little
23 income, they able to stay there. Some of them
24 probably ain't even got children to come and
25 check out and see how they're doing.

1 Reason why I can say that is because I'm one
2 of them. I got some of my children that help me,
3 but I've got a grown son that wouldn't come check
4 on me and help me out. He got a job, working.

5 But you got elderly people there just barely
6 -- just hanging on. Sometimes they think that
7 they're just here, you know, just waiting to kick
8 -- waiting to die. Don't nobody care about them.
9 And then you're adding all these high charges on
10 them, and they're -- a fixed income ain't going
11 to go but so far. Especially when they got a
12 doctor bill they have to pay, they got food they
13 got to buy. Then they got to pay somebody to
14 take them when they ain't got no way to get
15 around.

16 That's all I got to say. And I thank you
17 all for letting me come today.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms.
19 Littlejohn.

20 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Elliott?

22 **MR. ELLIOTT:** I appreciate Ms. Littlejohn
23 being here, but I have no questions.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Nelson?

25 **MR. NELSON:** I've got just one or two

1 questions for Ms. Littlejohn.

2 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

3 **BY MR. NELSON:**

4 **Q** You talked about the first time you had the backup and
5 everything. Do you know about when that was? You
6 said it was not too long after you moved into --

7 **A** Yes, it was -- let me see. I moved over there in '92,
8 so when I moved in there in '92, that's when -- I was
9 in there for about -- it might've been maybe about --
10 about a couple days, when I moved in.

11 **Q** Since that -- and you probably called somebody at that
12 time, I guess, to come out and fix it, I'm sure?

13 **A** Yes. Uh-huh, yes.

14 **Q** Have you had to call again since then? Have you had
15 to call the sewer company for anything, because of a
16 backup or anything, since then?

17 **A** No, huh-uh. Oh, I had to call -- I didn't call the
18 sewage people, but I had to call DHEC, when -- yeah,
19 when me and -- we had to complain or -- sometime we
20 didn't complain; you know how you just give a threat
21 that you're going to call DHEC and see if they're
22 going to move and do something? Because I stay next-
23 door to the trailer he was talking about, and I didn't
24 want my grandkids out there in the yard playing, with
25 the water running out in the yard and backing up in

1 the yard. And flies, and all of them flies off of it.
2 And, you know, I could sit on my front porch and I'm
3 looking about as far as from here to that wall there,
4 and I can see where the water is backing up, you know,
5 and it's not even going out in the line. And it's
6 been many times that very same trailer have been like
7 that. I know it was three families that stayed in
8 that trailer, that had a problem out of that
9 particular trailer.

10 **Q** Was that -- that's the trailer that's close to your
11 place, too?

12 **A** Right beside me.

13 **Q** Was it backing up inside the house, you're talking
14 about, or was it --

15 **A** The water wasn't even -- well, the water wasn't even
16 going in the line, going through the line. And what
17 they done -- it wasn't going through the line. What
18 they done, they unhooked it, to where it would just
19 run.

20 **Q** So it was just running out of the house because --

21 **A** Yeah.

22 **Q** -- they didn't have sewer service?

23 **A** Because it wasn't going in the line. And that's
24 whenever I got to complaining, because I didn't want
25 to stay there if -- if you wanted to sit on the porch,

1 you didn't want all them flies coming landing on you,
2 and they landing on all that stuff.

3 **Q** Thank you, that's all the questions I have.

4 **A** Thank you.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

6 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** Madam Chair.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, Commissioner
8 Hamilton.

9 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** I have one question.
10 It doesn't pertain to this hearing.

11 **EXAMINATION**

12 **BY COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:**

13 **Q** But you you said that, prior to your disability, your
14 water was cut off, for five months I believe you said.
15 And they added a \$25 per month charge?

16 **A** [Nodding head.]

17 **Q** Did you have to pay those charges to have your water
18 turned back on?

19 **A** Yes, I did. My daughter -- what happened, my daughter
20 got a child support check from her father's baby [sic]
21 and she gave me the money to have my water turned back
22 on.

23 **Q** When was that?

24 **A** Oh, how long. It's been some years. It's been about
25 maybe -- what? It's been some years, but I tell you

1 what, I got -- I can get that information. They got
2 it in the computer.

3 **Q** Thank you, ma'am.

4 **A** I can get the information.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other
6 questions?

7 **EXAMINATION**

8 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

9 **Q** Would you say that it's been more than five years?

10 **A** It may have been -- no, I don't think it's been more
11 than five years.

12 **Q** It's been less than five years?

13 **A** Yeah. Yeah, because -- yeah, it's been less than five
14 years. It might -- yeah, less than five years.
15 Because SJW Water District, that's where the water
16 company -- because I had to pay that, in order to get
17 my water back on.

18 **EXAMINATION**

19 **BY COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:**

20 **Q** And it was \$25 per month, after they turned the water
21 off.

22 **A** They called it a late fee. They called it -- they
23 said even though your water is off, you still had to
24 pay that. I had to pay -- and the woman -- when I
25 talked to the lady, she told me, she said, "Ma'am,

1 it's not that your water bill is high." She said,
2 "It's just them late fees what they added on there,
3 kept on compounding." And it was \$25, \$25, and it's
4 charging me every time, that my water was off.

5 And to the portion I heard somebody ask about our
6 water bill, I talked to the lady -- it's been about a
7 month or so again, about the water bill. And I asked
8 her about that, about how much, you know, my water
9 bill was. What she said that we were paying a flat
10 rate, like they put you on a flat rate. That's what
11 we're on. And that's what the lady explained to me.

12 **Q** Yes, ma'am. But if you have that information that you
13 could provided it to us, I would appreciate it.

14 **A** I will. Okay.

15 **Q** Thank you.

16 **A** Thank you.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** What we'll do is reserve
18 Exhibit No. 10 to enter that information into the
19 evidence of the case.

20 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** I believe it doesn't
21 pertain to the sewer case.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** But she's entering it
23 into the case.

24 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** Okay.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We'll reserve a place for

1 it.

2 MR. MINGES: Madam Chairman, we've reached
3 the last name on our list, of folks who have
4 signed up to speak this evening. Linda Greer, if
5 you would come forward?

6 MS. FEW: I signed up.

7 MR. MINGES: Oh, okay. Unless I've
8 overlooked somebody.

9 MS. FEW: I was on a single piece of paper.

10 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Oh, I think you had
11 another sheet here.

12 MR. MINGES: Oh, okay. Are you Ms. Greer?

13 MS. FEW: No. I'm Few.

14 MR. MINGES: Okay. Well, we'll get to you
15 after Ms. Greer, then.

16 [Witness sworn]

17 THEREUPON came,

18 L I N D A B . G R E E R ,

19 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
20 follows:

21 WITNESS: My name is Linda Greer, 118 Cannon
22 Circle.

23 I've been living at Brookside for almost 27
24 years. I have seen, several times, overflow of
25 sewerage bubbling up out of the manhole that is

1 in my backyard right at the property line. There
2 was so much of it that it covered the field
3 behind my house. Deep. There were children
4 playing in that human sewerage. My neighbor saw
5 it, he yelled out the window at these children,
6 and told them to get out of there, they were
7 going to get sick. These are human beings we're
8 speaking of. The stench is awful.

9 One day, Drain Doctor, a truck from Drain
10 Doctor -- would someone please tell me? I forgot
11 the name of the company in North Carolina that's
12 in charge of our sewerage? What is that? Aqua-
13 something?

14 **VOICE:** Aqua.

15 **WITNESS:** Well, anyway, they in turn
16 contacted Drain Doctor to come out and clean out
17 those sewerage pipes. I talked with one of the
18 employees from that truck, and he told me that
19 the pipes are entirely too small. I know Aqua
20 was not responsible for installing those pipes,
21 but they are responsible now because they have
22 accepted the contract for our neighborhood. And
23 this employee from Drain Doctor told me the pipes
24 should be replaced with larger pipes, because he
25 has done this work for some time and he has seen

1 -- he told me all he had ever seen were larger
2 pipes, larger than our pipes. And he said they
3 should be cleaned out every six months on a
4 regular basis. The proof is in the pudding, is
5 it not? Would they be overflowing if they were
6 cleaned out every six months?

7 The overflow would stay there for days. I
8 had to call the health department several times.
9 We are inhaling airborne germs. We are living
10 with all this, and yet they want to raise our
11 payments? I talked with people who were clearing
12 -- they call it the firing line. It's a road.
13 It runs back behind my house, over the sewerage
14 pipes. And it's my understanding that it's
15 supposed to be cleaned out every six months --
16 they told me this, the people who were cleaning
17 it out that particular day -- in case some
18 officials, I don't know who they are or where
19 they come from, in case they want to go down
20 there and inspect the pipes. Of course, they're
21 under the ground, so I don't understand all of
22 that, but that road is supposed to be cleared
23 every six months for them to drive down through
24 there if they want to do it. And it's not being
25 done. I know, because it's right there, comes

1 across my property. And there's been trees that
2 have grown up in there. Big trees. A tree
3 doesn't get that big in six months. I mean, you
4 know, if it was cleaned out in six months, there
5 would be no trees there.

6 I was told by the supervisor of Drain
7 Doctor, this company did not have -- the Aqua
8 company did not have it in their budget to keep
9 the drains clean on a regular basis. This being
10 so, the company should not have taken the
11 contract. Before I even purchase something big
12 -- a car, house, whatever -- I sit down with
13 pencil and paper. I figure out my money and my
14 necessary bills, see how much money I have left
15 over. Then I know if I can buy a car or a house
16 or whatever. They could do the same thing. Sit
17 down and figure out your budget. "Can I take
18 this contract? No, not enough money in my
19 budget." Then don't take it. They are dealing
20 with human lives here.

21 We may be a poor people and a poor
22 neighborhood, but there's a lot of good people
23 out there in Brookside. A lot of good people.
24 But we are people. We are just as important as
25 any other citizen of the United States of

1 America. And I thank God I was born in this
2 country, because I wouldn't be standing here in a
3 lot of countries, you know? I wouldn't be able
4 to speak. So please have mercy on us. And I do
5 not think that our bills should go up even one
6 penny, but I think they should do their job and
7 keep that sewerage line clean. I shouldn't have
8 to spend time out of my life going down there and
9 looking over the situation, and smelling that
10 stench, and spending time on the phone calling
11 this place and that place, and calling the health
12 department. Thank God we've got a health
13 department. What is it for? For our health.

14 I'm tired of smelling that stench, I'm tired
15 of seeing children playing in it when they don't
16 even know what it is and it's dangerous. I'm
17 sure the Aqua people -- they wouldn't want their
18 children playing in it. Please have mercy on us.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute, Ms. Greer.
20 Mr. Elliott?

21 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No, ma'am. I appreciate Ms.
22 Greer being here, though.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Nelson?

24 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chairman.
25 Thank you.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Wait a minute, Ms.
2 Greer.

3 **WITNESS:** It's just that standing in one
4 spot is very bad for my spine.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Well, we'll be
6 brief. Commissioners, are there any questions?

7 [No response]

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Greer, I do not --
9 you mentioned you call the health department.
10 Have you called the Office of Regulatory Staff?
11 This group over here? They're -- they receive
12 complaints that customers have with utilities.

13 **WITNESS:** Well, I would like to have their
14 number, because, see, I didn't know who to call.
15 I had to call several different places, and I
16 can't even remember all of them. But finally I
17 just -- somebody, when I called places, said to
18 call the health department, so I called, and they
19 were good. They came out. The health department
20 came out and looked the situation over. And he
21 even walked on up to some of the other manholes,
22 and he came back and told me that they -- he'd
23 seen -- he could see where they had overflowed.
24 And I said, "How can you tell that?" He said,
25 "Because the white foam is still around there."

1 I mean, the sewerage is still -- even when they
2 clean it out, the sewerage is still on the
3 ground, for somebody's dog -- well, of course,
4 we're supposed to keep the dogs up. Children.
5 For some child to go down there and play in it.
6 Everybody said, "Oh, look at the snow. Look at
7 -- oh, it's snow," you know, or sand, this white
8 foam.

9 But I would like to have the name of it. Do
10 you have a card?

11 **MR. NELSON:** We'll make sure -- we have some
12 materials outside, Ms. Greer. We'll make sure to
13 get you some materials.

14 **WITNESS:** Okay.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you,
16 Ms. Greer.

17 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And I believe you said
19 you had signed up to speak?

20 **MS. FEW:** It was on one sheet of paper by
21 itself.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Would you please come
23 forward, then, and give your name and address?

24 [Witness sworn]

25 >

1 THEREUPON came,

2 K R I S T I N A F E W ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
4 follows:

5 WITNESS: My name is Kristina Few. I live
6 at 21 Ford Drive, in Wellford, in Brookside
7 Village, and I've lived there for 25 years.

8 I was one of the first people to actually
9 build a house from scratch and move into that
10 neighborhood. It was a nice neighborhood. I'm a
11 teacher, and fellow teachers lived in that
12 neighborhood. And I know that -- just like the
13 other people had said before -- that the
14 neighborhood was moving forward, and at that time
15 the sewer was promised to us at a low rate of
16 \$5.00, and they promised that it would stay low,
17 because part of the houses were government-
18 subsidized houses and they wanted it to stay
19 where it was affordable for people to come into
20 the house -- and it was single-family dwellings.
21 And as some of these people have said, now the
22 housing is rentals, and people come in there and
23 they don't take care of the houses. And we have
24 a lot of things that have happened.

25 Brookside has gone through a lot of blows in

1 the past. We've had the -- when they finished
2 selling the property, they -- the Commission -- I
3 mean, L.P. Pitts decided they would move on, like
4 the one gentleman said. And then we had a nice
5 neighborhood that -- there was no landfill. And
6 then the landfill came in, and that was another
7 blow.

8 Well, most of us who have old homes there,
9 we have to stay there because we have incomes
10 that are not affordable for us to move out and to
11 buy more expensive homes. And in my case, I've
12 been teaching for the same amount of time as I
13 lived in the neighborhood, for 25 years, and so I
14 am at the State's mercy for getting raises and
15 things. I can do certain things, but I'm sort of
16 like on a fixed income, too. And what I see
17 around my neighborhood is people that are
18 elderly, that are low income, that cannot move,
19 they're stuck there. And also the houses that we
20 try to keep up, the home values have gone down so
21 much, because you can't sell a house there
22 anymore because of the landfill, and now it's
23 even harder for you to keep your house up because
24 of the people that are around you.

25 I've seen drive-by shootings, I've seen

1 homes that have been gutted and left vacant.
2 There's a house right across the street from me
3 that's been vacant for more than six months.
4 The two houses in front of me are both rentals,
5 and they were empty for at least a year, and now
6 there's people living in it. One has seven
7 people living in it, and the other one has six
8 people living in it. And like the lady said
9 before, you know, it's hard to try to sell a
10 house or even to do anything with it and get any
11 -- I have put a lot of investment in my home, and
12 it's hard to get it out.

13 And to speak about Aqua and how they -- I've
14 lived there long enough that I've had to do my
15 own repairs to the line four times. I've had
16 twice -- two times, it was completely cleaned out
17 all the way to their line and then on out,
18 because it was doing the same thing that the lady
19 said where it was backing up into your bathroom.
20 And so I had it cleaned out, and this was who
21 they recommended to come out, and they said that
22 it was clean. Well, the next time they came out
23 and they said it was backed up again, so I had to
24 do the same thing. One time it was \$400, one
25 time it was \$600, and one time it was \$800, and

1 this last time it was \$1,100. They had to dig up
2 my whole front yard, put new pipes in. It's just
3 like the lady said before, the pipes are too
4 narrow. And so they have to put a smaller pipe
5 in -- you have to start out with a big pipe, but
6 it gets smaller and smaller and smaller, and then
7 it gets inundated. It's not cleaned out. I've
8 never seen anybody, except for me, paying for the
9 drain to be cleaned out, you know.

10 And so I think that it's ridiculous to ask
11 us to pay this extra charge. I have friends that
12 have \$300,000 houses and they don't pay this kind
13 of sewer bill. I mean, I have a friend, she pays
14 like \$14 a month. And this is ridiculous for
15 people in this kind of income and to be forced to
16 stay in the neighborhood, practically, and still
17 have to pay this ridiculous amount.

18 And I sent a letter in, because I couldn't
19 come that first time. And you have a letter that
20 I mailed to you, because I couldn't come. I was
21 teaching, and you can't be out of teaching or you
22 have to take personal days and things of that
23 nature. And I have just been transferred to a
24 new school after 23 years, and I'm going to lose
25 part of my income, so, I mean, because, in effect

1 they don't do the same programs that I do at my
2 previous school, so I'm going to lose income. So
3 I'm going to have to come up with this extra
4 money and I've already lost income, you know.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms. Few. Is
6 there anything else that you'd like to --

7 **WITNESS:** No. I think that -- I agree with
8 the lady that said that they should clean them
9 out, if they -- because it shouldn't be the
10 person to have to come and -- Drain Doctor did
11 mine twice, and then it was -- they recommended
12 -- they recommended another one, the one that
13 does the -- I can't remember the name of it.

14 **VOICE:** Roto-Rooter?

15 **WITNESS:** Roto-Rooter, yes. They
16 recommended it. And he didn't clean it out
17 enough to -- when he went to the road -- all the
18 way to the road and past where it was their
19 responsibility, his bit broke. And so he didn't
20 have a big enough bit to clean it out, so then I
21 had to hire the other person to come in and take
22 it over to fix the drain.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, thank you. Just a
24 minute, please.

25 **WITNESS:** Oh.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Elliott, do you have
2 any questions?

3 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No question of Ms. Few. I
4 appreciate her attendance.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Mr. Nelson?

6 **MR. NELSON:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Commissioners, are
8 there --

9 **WITNESS:** [Indicating.]

10 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Madam Chair, I do
11 have one.

12 **WITNESS:** Sorry.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You are anxious to leave
14 that podium, aren't you?

15 **WITNESS:** I'm on vacation, but then I'm
16 going to be transferring to another school, so
17 I've got a lot of cleaning out to do, you know.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You don't have time to
19 wait.

20 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Well, I won't stop
21 you from your vacation long.

22 **EXAMINATION**

23 **BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:**

24 **Q** How long ago did you say you had paid for this to be
25 cleaned out? I know you quoted -- you said two times,

1 but you quoted, I think, four different figures there.
2 How recently has that been?

3 **A** It was -- not this summer but the summer before last.
4 It was \$1,100. And they had to actually dig up and
5 put pipes in, you know, thinking that would help it
6 flow better, you know. And then I had to put some
7 kind of additive into it, too. But, I mean, I cleaned
8 it out all the way past their part, you know, because
9 I was having this backup, and you -- it's like the
10 lady said, you can't live like that. I had no use of
11 my house at that time. I mean, for three days, I had
12 to wait for them to dig up the yard and everything.
13 And I had to wait, you know, and I had to go stay with
14 my mother. I couldn't use my house. I couldn't use
15 anything.

16 **Q** And you haven't done it again, since, right?

17 **A** No, but -- I hope I don't have to.

18 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** I hope not either.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Are there any
20 other questions?

21 [No response]

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may be
23 excused now.

24 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Is that all -- are those

1 all the names we have?

2 MR. MINGES: Madam Chairman, that brings us
3 to the end of the list.

4 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Is there
5 anyone else that would like to speak at this
6 time? Well, lets see if there are any new
7 people. I think both of you have been --

8 VOICE: Can I add something else?

9 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay, let's see if there
10 are any new people.

11 VOICE: Oh, okay.

12 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: People who haven't spoken
13 yet.

14 [No response]

15 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. Yes, if you'd like
16 to --

17 VOICE: Stand up?

18 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes, you'll have to be
19 sworn in.

20 VOICE: Oh, okay. I did have a question. I
21 don't have anything to add.

22 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Well, the questions need
23 to be asked after the meeting, and you need to go
24 to Mr. Elliott, who represents the company --

25 VOICE: It was more of a general question.

1 It's not about this, specifically.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- or to Mr. Nelson --

3 **VOICE:** Okay, he might be able to help.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- who represents the
5 Office of Regulatory Staff.

6 **VOICE:** Okay, thank you.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Is there anyone else who
8 hasn't spoken?

9 **MR. PURDY:** Just a couple more papers that
10 goes with those other papers.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** That you'd like to enter?
12 All right. Mr. Purdy, if you'd come up, and Mr.
13 Richardson will take them to both sides.

14 **MR. PURDY:** Thank you, very much
15 [indicating].

16 **MR. RICHARDSON:** [Indicating.]

17 [WHEREUPON, the documents were
18 published to parties' counsel, followed
19 by a brief pause.]

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. If there are
21 no objections, we will add that to the composite
22 exhibit that we already have, Mr. Purdy, into the
23 evidence of the case.

24 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 8 was
25 amended to include additional documents

1 provided.]

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And I saw a couple of
3 other hands. If you could please come forward,
4 you will still be under oath.

5 THEREUPON came,

6 **L A K E T A C A S E ,**
7 who, having been previously duly sworn/affirmed, testified
8 further as follows:

9 **WITNESS:** Laketa --

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We do need you to give
11 us your name and address again.

12 **WITNESS:** Okay. Laketa Case. 117
13 Wellington Road, Wellford, South Carolina.

14 We're lucky enough that we live on top of
15 the hill, so we don't have the bubbling over, but
16 it was happening and I wanted to clarify the
17 reason it stopped bubbling over is because they
18 paved over all the manholes so the sewer couldn't
19 come out anymore. That's -- the County came in
20 and all the manholes were covered, so you didn't
21 have the sewage bubbling out anymore into the
22 street.

23 **EXAMINATION**

24 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

25 **Q** The County did that?

1 **A** The County paved it, so then you didn't have a sewage
2 problem anymore.

3 **Q** When did they do that?

4 **A** That was, I'd say, probably about eight years ago, I
5 wouldn't swear to it, but that's how they eliminated
6 that problem, and that's why when they were talking
7 about when the Drain Doctor and them came in they
8 couldn't find the manholes, because all of them had
9 been covered.

10 **Q** Okay.

11 **A** Okay?

12 **Q** So, presently, all of the manholes have been paved
13 over.

14 **A** Well, they came -- like they said, about three weeks
15 ago they came in and tried to uncover a lot of them.
16 During that whole time nothing had been done to
17 manholes until they came in and tried to find them.

18 **Q** Who came in to try to find them?

19 **A** The Drain Doctor.

20 **Q** The Drain Doctor.

21 **A** and I'm assuming they hired them to do it. I'm not
22 sure.

23 **Q** Okay, thank you. That was done eight years ago, you
24 said?

25 **A** Whenever -- I wouldn't swear, because I'm not very

1 good with dates, but, yeah.

2 **Q** It's been a number of years.

3 **A** Yeah. It was bubbling over and they alleviated the
4 problem by covering them all up.

5 **Q** Okay. Thank you for that. And the County did that.

6 **A** Yeah.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Is that all?

8 **WITNESS:** Yeah.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

10 You may be excused. I appreciate that, Ms. Case.

11 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And I believe you had
13 your hand up.

14 THEREUPON came,

15 **P A T R I C I A L I N D S E Y ,**

16 who, having been previously duly sworn/affirmed, testified
17 further as follows:

18 **WITNESS:** Patricia Lindsey, at 10 Doby
19 Court, Wellford.

20 I just wanted to add that -- somebody said
21 something about how much it was in another area
22 for the sewer in certain subdivisions. My sister
23 lives in Oak Forest. And when I told her what
24 they were going to raise it to, she said, "Well,
25 what are you paying now?" And I told her what I

1 pay now, which is \$20.50. And where she lives,
2 she doesn't even barely pay \$12 a month, you
3 know, for her sewer. She's got a great big,
4 three-bedroom house with four people living in it
5 and in this huge subdivision, and as far as I
6 know, they very rarely have any sewer problems or
7 anything like that. And it just seems asinine --
8 is the only word I can come up -- for them to
9 raise this this much. And I just wanted to
10 mention it -- I forgot to mention that earlier,
11 and I do apologize for not bringing it up then.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. And you're still
13 -- of course, you knew you were still under oath.

14 **WITNESS:** Okay.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

16 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Purdy?

18 **MR. PURDY:** Can I say one more thing? I
19 do --

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Please come to the front,
21 please, and you're still under oath.

22 THEREUPON came,

23 **T I M O T H Y P U R D Y ,**
24 who, having been previously duly sworn/affirmed, testified
25 further as follows:

1 **WITNESS:** I just wouldn't want to be the
2 person that okays 108 percent on a person.

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you Mr. Purdy.

4 [WHEREUPON, the witness stood aside.]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If there's nothing else
6 -- everyone has had their say? We appreciate
7 your coming out tonight, certainly appreciated
8 all the input that you had. We appreciate the
9 fact that Representative Forrester and Mr.
10 Culbreth were here, as well, and we appreciate
11 the fact that you all were here. Afterwards, if
12 you have questions, I'm sure both parties will be
13 happy to answer the questions to the best of
14 their ability tonight. And before we close --
15 before we adjourn, I'd like to ask the parties if
16 you have any closing remarks.

17 **MR. ELLIOTT:** No, thank you, Madam Chair.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

19 **MR. NELSON:** Nothing from ORS, Madam Chair.
20 Thank you.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Very good. Well, at this
22 time, the meeting is adjourned.

23 [Witness(es) excused]

24 [WHEREUPON, at 7:45 p.m., the hearing
25 in the above-entitled matter was

1 adjourned.]

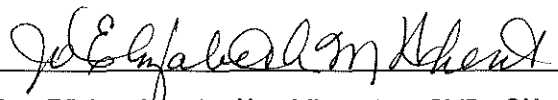
2
3 [WHEREUPON, Late-filed Exhibit No. 9
4 was marked and received in evidence
5 upon receipt of same.]

6
7 [WHEREUPON, Late-filed Exhibit No. 10
8 shall be marked and received in
9 evidence, upon receipt of same.]

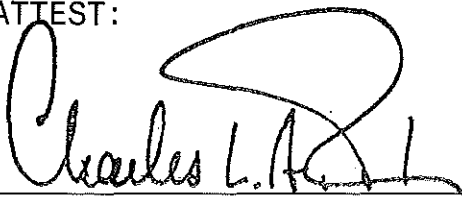
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had and testimony adduced in a public hearing held in the above-captioned matter before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

Given under my hand, this the 1st day of July,
2009.


Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC

ATTEST:


Charles L. A. Terreni
CHIEF CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR